

# ADVANTAGE

Live Unconventionally



EMBRAER QUARTERLY  
VOL 14 ➔ 2021

**Wild Pursuit**

Behzad Larry's high-altitude photographic series

**10-Year Anniversary**

Embraer celebrates 10 years on Florida's Space Coast

**Home Sanctuaries**

Designing spaces for meditation and contemplation

# SEARCHING FOR THE GREY GHOST

---

*Behzad Larry leads expeditions throughout Ladakh in Northern India in search of one of the world's most elusive big cats, where an unparalleled wildlife experience thrills guests and benefits remote communities with each intrepid journey*





Because of their elusive nature and incredible camouflage, snow leopards are often referred to as the "ghost of the mountains"

*“There’s a disbelief that you’re actually looking at a snow leopard, and then there’s sheer gratitude that maybe you’ve accumulated some good karma because the snow leopard has chosen you to reveal itself to.”*

**I**n the valley of a narrow gorge, a silhouette appears against the blue skyline where a lone snow leopard awaits on the cliffside, outstretched and unperturbed by the presence of humans. For five hours, the regal cat drifts between naps while casually observing a grazing blue sheep nearby before simply recoiling and vanishing into the fading dusk light.

Adrenalin, astonishment and tears are among the initial reactions when spotting the elusive big cat for the first time. “There’s a disbelief that you’re actually looking at a snow leopard, and then there’s sheer gratitude that maybe you’ve accumulated some good karma because the snow leopard has chosen you to reveal itself to.” Professional photographer and adventurer Behzad Larry describes his first snow leopard sighting almost seven years ago, an encounter that’s inspired numerous expeditions and a continued search for the grey ghost in the cold desert of Ladakh.

Rising up to 23,000 feet, Ladakh is the highest plateau in India, sandwiched between the Karakoram and Great Himalaya Ranges. Here, in the eastern region just outside Ladakh’s historical capital Leh, the Hemis National Park stretches over one million acres and evolves from sharp peaks and rocky ridges to windswept shrublands and undulating meadows, where ancient snow-prone footpaths crisscross over the alpine tundra and the shy snow leopard roams.

In centuries past, several ancient trade routes between Tibet and Kashmir converged in Leh along the Indus Valley, where salt, grains, cashmere wool, indigo, silk yarn, and brocade were shuttled back and forth by caravan, forging the cultural melting pot that exists today. “Ladakh is unique because there’s a wonderful mix between civilizations, history and culture that have come together through the last 1,500 to 2,000 years on what is known as the ancient Silk Road,” shared Larry. “It’s a wonderful place to explore if you love nature, culture and history, or if you’re looking for a trip that explores all three.”



Larry, originally from Mhow, central India, has lived and worked across North America, East and North-Western Africa, and South Asia before founding Vogyr Expeditions in 2013, an experiential travel company offering guided journeys to track big cats while advocating for transformative and regenerative travel. Through Vogyr, intrepid travelers gain privileged access to wildlife safaris, photography expeditions and cultural engagement tours throughout Central Asia, the Russian Far East, the Himalayas, and Northern India with a strict “leave no trace” principle.

Spending four to five months each year trekking the remote mountainous reaches of Ladakh, Larry leads these exhilarating expeditions through snowy alpine paths and beside ice-blue lakes to discover the mysterious snow leopard. Accompanying him are a field team of specialist photographers, naturalists, historians, and acclaimed explorers, with the expertise required to track snow leopards, much to the delight of their guests, who are known to return for several expeditions.

For the past 17 months, Larry and his team have worked tirelessly to offer guests an incredibly comfortable, luxury camp experience that’s accessible for all without strenuous hiking. Opening January 1, 2022, the new carbon-

negative camp will host up to 18 guests, ideal for families and friends to connect to nature and escape the routine and pressure of day-to-day. Vogyr’s private LungMār Camp will feature two suites and eight custom designed tents, insulated with thick, heavy canvas, hand-woven Afghan rugs, central heating, plush down duvets, and hotel-quality beds. There are two separate geodesic domes for lounge and dining spaces where guests can gather and regal the day’s sightings while sipping steaming kahwah (a traditional preparation of green tea) or enjoying chef-prepared five-course meals.

To embark on a Snow Leopard Expedition in Ladakh, guests will arrive in Delhi before transferring to Leh to acclimatize. Here, guests can explore by joining an iconic walking tour, where ancient Tibetan gompas, traditional houses, fluttering prayer flags, and majestic mountain vistas awaken a true sense of place. At the remote LungMār Camp in the Hemis National Park, guests can join daily tracking and hiking activities, learn photography tips from acclaimed professionals, and engage with surrounding communities. “We’re creating really interesting experiences that combine incredible landscapes and wildlife with iconic elements of the local culture, and of being on the Great Silk Road,” said Larry.

**Above**  
Cradled by the Karakoram and Himalaya mountains, Ladakh features some of the Earth’s most stunning highland scenery

**Right page (top)**  
The snow leopard’s powerful build allows it to scale steep slopes with ease, leaping six times the length of its body

**Right page (bottom)**  
Voygr Expeditions ensures a combination of incredible landscapes, wildlife and encounters with local communities

## THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

From January 2022, discover the new LungMär Camp for your first encounter with a snow leopard. The easily accessible camp can be privatized for up to 18 guests, with comfort being the highest priority.

When embarking on an expedition with Voygr, guests can travel with an absolute peace of mind, knowing that all requests and logistics, including visitor permits and private transfers from Delhi or Ladakh to camp, are prearranged for a seamless travel experience.

**For more information, visit: [voygr.com](http://voygr.com)**



## EMBRAER TIP

With one of the world's most scenic approaches, experience the Praetor 600's unmatched runway performance as you land at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport in Ladakh.

For an exclusive experience, guests can take advantage of a reserved hanger in Delhi with private jet access arranged by Voygr that will land guests in Leh without the hassle of navigating altitude and clearance or gaining the required permits. Those wishing to fly directly into Ladakh can do so with ease on board the Praetor 600; Voygr can prearrange all permits allowing guests to land and transfer onwards to Leh to begin their expedition. Every year, for departures from November to April, Voygr crafts bespoke itineraries for guests with complete camp buy-out options, expert field guides, and the ability to plan an expedition according to personal preferences, departure dates and interests.

By establishing an independent entity and non-profit High Asia Habitat Fund, Voygr donates 20% of its annual revenue to protect critical ecosystems through conserving wildlife, restoring wild habitat and empowering dependent communities toward conservation. "What we try to do is actively develop things that benefit the community—the people who work in the camp, the trackers and the guides are essential to our work," noted Larry.

Larry uses these expeditions as an opportunity to photograph snow leopards in their fragile, natural habitat, bringing to light the continued need to protect the big cat and its habitat while repairing the relationship between wildlife and humans in Ladakh. With each expedition, Voygr creates an unforgettable opportunity for guests to journey into the wilderness for their own big cat close encounter, one that is sure to leave you transformed. ←

